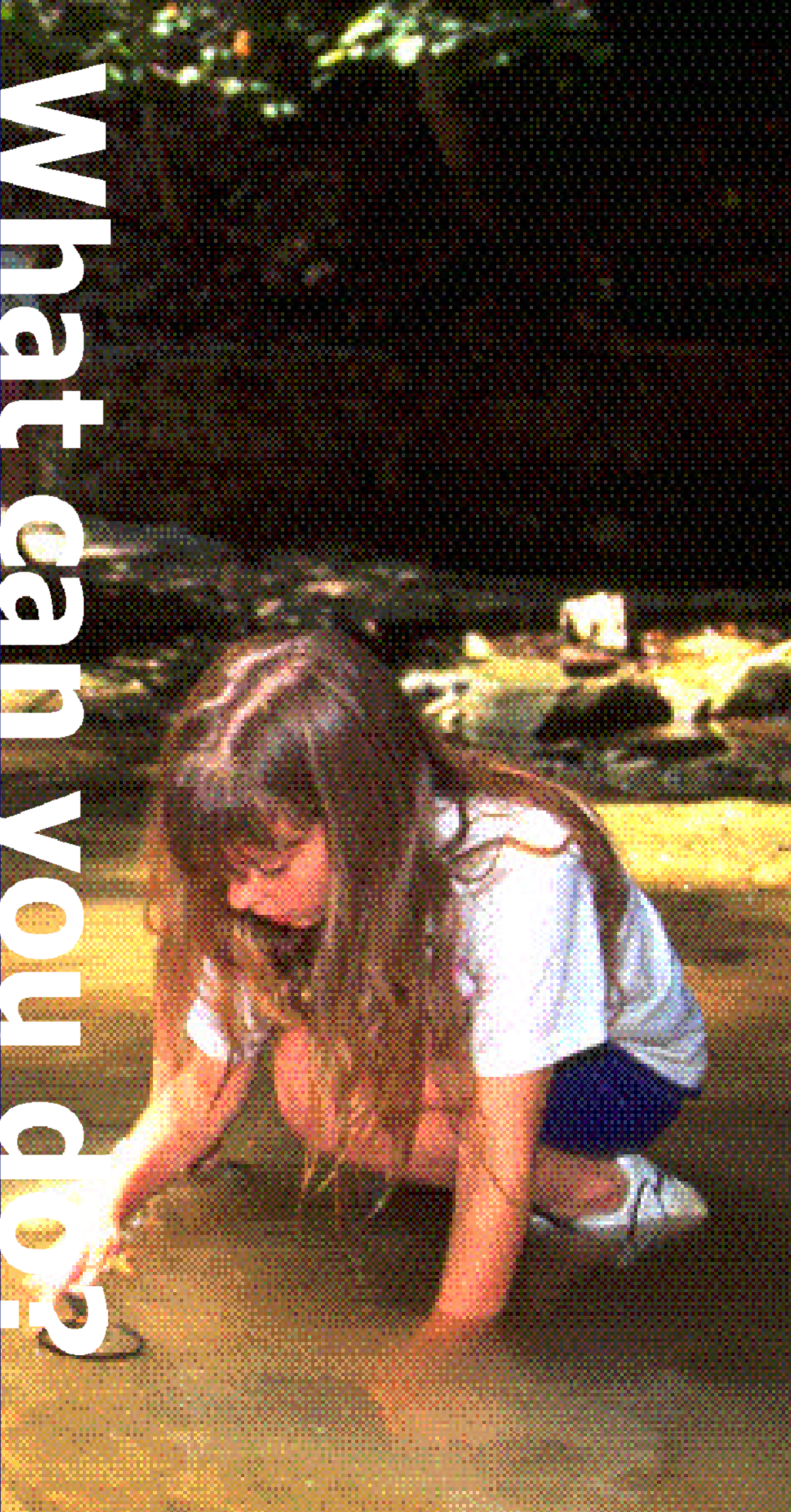


What can you do?





## WHAT IS OZONE?

Ozone is found in two layers of the earth's atmosphere. One layer is beneficial ozone that shields the earth from UV light and is most commonly thought of with regards to the concern of holes developing. This ozone is often confused with the harmful ozone that is concentrated at the surface as a result of reaction between by-products of fossil fuel combustion and sunlight, causing harmful health effects.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT?

Each year, IDEM staff is asked thousands of questions about Indiana's environment. Questions range from specifics about activities in your communities to very broad questions about Indiana's environmental health. But, the most frequently asked question is "How do I affect the environment?" The average citizen's daily activities do affect the environment. Our daily commutes to and from work, the trash we throw away, painting and even mowing the grass all combine to have a profound impact on our state's environment. That's why we need your help.

This section of the Annual Indiana State of the Environment Report provides you with ideas on how you can help reduce your impact on Indiana's environment. Each section has a list of things that you can do to help protect Indiana's environment. We hope you find the information both useful and insightful. Remember, your actions count!

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT INDIANA'S AIR QUALITY?

1. Leave your car at home. Carpool, take public transportation or ride a bicycle to your destination. A typical car emits about 10,730 pounds of air pollution a year and a typical sport utility vehicle or light truck emits almost 17,900 pounds of pollution.
2. Prevent air pollution. Don't idle the car in parking lots or the drive through.
3. Don't be a speed demon. You can improve your gas mileage about 15 percent by driving at 55 mph rather than 65 mph.
4. Change the fuel filter on your car as recommended by the manufacturer. Cleaner fuel = cleaner emissions.
5. Recycle used batteries to reduce toxic mercury emissions. Marion County and some other communities incinerate household waste. Mercury in batteries ends up going out the smokestack and into the air we all breathe. All Marion County library branches collect used batteries.
6. Use ceiling and box fans instead of air conditioners to keep cool. Fossil fuels that are used to produce electricity contribute to air pollution and global warming. Using less electricity will save you money in electric bills, too!
7. Cut your utility bills by purchasing energy-efficient appliances, fixtures and other electronic products. The average home creates more air pollution than the average car. You can reduce your energy use by up to 40 percent by purchasing items displaying the ENERGY STAR label.
8. Turn off electric appliances and lights when they are not in use and only run the dishwasher and washing machines when they are full. The United States consists of four percent of the world's population, yet creates 25 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions. Conserving energy will reduce the United States contribution to global warming.

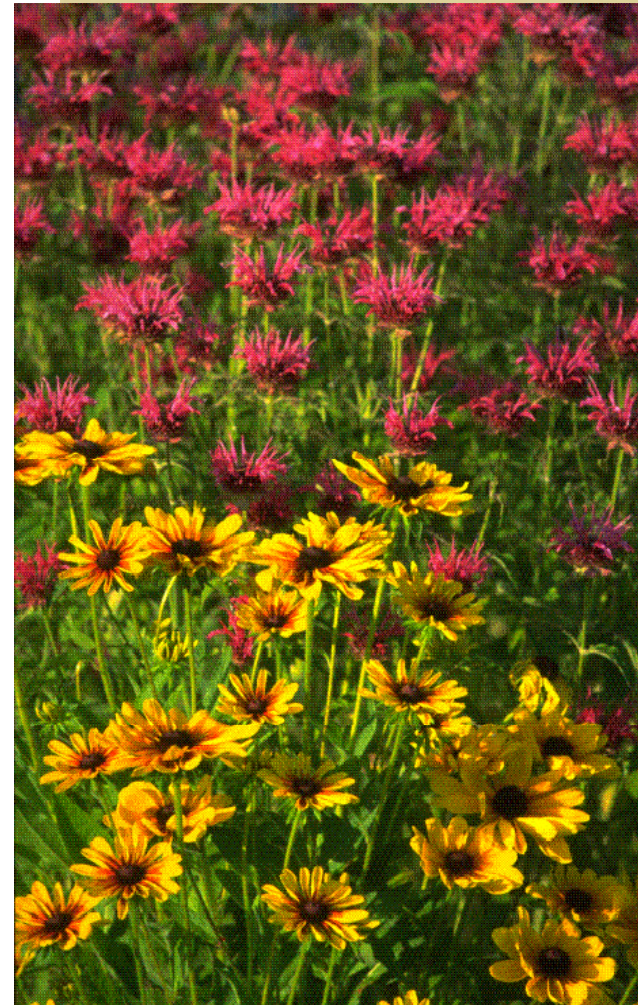




9. Wait until the evening to get gas and to mow the lawn. This helps prevent ground level ozone formation.
10. Compost organic trash, leaves and grass clippings instead of burning them. Composting five pounds of leaves will prevent one pound of air pollution and you'll get great soil free!

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT INDIANA'S LAND QUALITY?

1. Participate in your local recycling program at home and in the workplace.
2. Purchase products containing post-consumer recycled-content materials. This increases demand for recycled materials placed at the curb, creates value for these materials, stimulates local economic growth and closes the recycling loop.
3. Practice environmental shopping. Purchase products that are durable, reusable or packaged in bulk. Less packaging means less waste for disposal.
4. Leave your grass clippings on the lawn when you mow. These clippings fertilize your lawn as they decompose. Not bagging them helps reduce the amount of yard waste at the curb for trash pickup.
5. Compost yard and food wastes. Yard and food wastes make up over 20 percent of materials heading for landfills. Making compost of these wastes replaces soil nutrients and commercial fertilizers when placed in the garden. Removal of the materials also extends the useful life of existing landfills.
6. Switch from chemical-type household cleaners to natural products, like soap and water. A vinegar and water mixture works well as a window cleaner. Check cleaning solvent ingredients and use products that have the least impact on the environment. Look for products that are water based, or have low or no VOCs (volatile organic compounds).
7. Take household hazardous waste to a local collection program, if available. Each person in Indiana produces an average of four pounds of household hazardous waste each year. That is 11,000 tons annually. When improperly disposed of, household hazardous waste can create a potential risk to people and the environment.
8. Report discharges of potential pollutants, any suspicious activity or motor vehicle accidents involving potential pollutants, to the IDEM 24-Hour Hotline at (317) 233-7745.
9. Close the loop. Recycle aluminum cans, glass, plastic, cardboard and newspapers and buy products made from recycled materials. Recycling can reduce your home's carbon dioxide pollution by 850 pounds a year. Not only does recycling paper reduce pollution, it saves energy. Making one ton of recycled paper uses only 60 percent of the energy needed to make a ton of virgin paper.
10. Put up a bird or bat house in your yard. Birds and bats are a natural way to help control the insect population. Use personal repellants when outdoors and avoid spraying insecticides.







## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT INDIANA'S WATER QUALITY?

1. Don't wash the car in the driveway. Instead, take your car to a car wash facility. Water washing off urban pavement can be shockingly polluted.
2. Fix leaky faucets and always make sure you turn the water off completely. A dripping faucet can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water a month. That's 24,000 gallons of water each year!
3. Reduce the amount of water you use to keep clean. That average five-minute shower uses 25-50 gallons of water. Try to take short showers, not baths.
4. Keep water in the refrigerator so you won't have to run the tap to get it cold.
5. Watch what you pour down the drain. Hazardous household products can get into the groundwater and pollute your drinking water. For example, never wash out paint cans in the sink.
6. Turn off the water while you brush your teeth. The average person uses two gallons of water to brush their teeth.
7. Run your washing machine only when you have a large load.
8. Use low-flow faucets, toilets and showerheads.
9. Adopt a stream to clean up and keep beautiful.
10. Water your flowers and garden by hand and carefully monitor the amount of water you use.

## WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO LEARN ABOUT INDIANA'S ENVIRONMENT?

1. Educate others. Help others learn about the environment and take actions that reduce pollution and are beneficial to the environment.
2. Get informed. Visit IDEM's Web site at [www.in.gov/idem](http://www.in.gov/idem) to view a wide variety of information on IDEM programs, including forms, applications and links to other environmental information.
3. Find out what's happening in your community. "ZIP Code Search" at [www.in.gov/ideM/communityinfo/zip.html](http://www.in.gov/ideM/communityinfo/zip.html) offers a dynamic way to help locate, use and share environmental information about regulated facilities in relation to where you live.
4. Give IDEM a call. Call the EnviroLine at (800) 451-6027 or (317) 232-8603 for a fast, easy, convenient and confidential way to get information or call Fax on Demand at (800) 726-8000 for information on nearly 400 environmental compliance and technical documents, permit applications, fact sheets, rules and more. This service is available 24 hours a day.
5. Attend public meetings in your community. Information from the public can provide state and federal officials with appropriate guidance from a local perspective.



## For More Information

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

[www.in.gov/idem](http://www.in.gov/idem)

(800) 451-6027 or (317) 232-8603

Hearing or speech impaired call:

(800) 743-3333 or (317) 232-6565

## Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6015

Indianapolis, IN 46206-6015

## Indianapolis Office Locations

Indiana Government Center North

100 North Senate Avenue

(800) 451-6027 or (317) 232-8603

ISTA Building

150 West Market Street, Suite 703

(888) 988-7901 or (317) 232-8172

Western Select Property

2525 North Shadeland Avenue

(800) 451-6027 or (317) 232-8603

## Northern Regional Office

220 West Colfax Avenue, Suite 200

South Bend, IN 46601-1634

(800) 753-5519 or (219) 245-4870

## Northwest Regional Office

NBD Bank Building

504 North Broadway, Suite 418

Gary, IN 46402-1942

(888) 209-8892 or (219) 881-6712

## Southwest Regional Office

208 Northwest Fourth Street, Suite 201

Evansville, IN 47708-1353

(888) 672-8323 or (812) 436-2570

## Environmental Emergency Hotline

(888) 233-SPIL (7745)

## Smog Watch Forecast Hotline

(800) 631-2871

## Tox Watch Information

[www.in.gov/idem/air/toxwatch/index.htm](http://www.in.gov/idem/air/toxwatch/index.htm)

## ZIP Code Search

[www.in.gov/idem/communityinfo/zip.html](http://www.in.gov/idem/communityinfo/zip.html)



## We Welcome Your Comments

Correspond via the Internet at [www.in.gov/idem](http://www.in.gov/idem)

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